

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8045

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALLAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, AO

SUBJECT: PRAVDA "OBSERVER" COMMENTS ON ANGOLA

1. PRAVDA (DECEMBER 19) CARRIES AN AUTHORITATIVE ARTICLE SIGNED BY "OBSERVER" ENTITLED "THE VOICE OF FREE AFRICA." THE AUTHOR'S PRINCIPAL TARGET REMAINS THE "RACIST BASTIONS" OF RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, AND ESPECIALLY THE LATTER'S INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. HE CLAIMS THAT THE FORCES OF INTERNATIONAL REACTION ARE AFRAID TO INTERVENE OPENLY IN ANGOLA, AND ARE, THEREFORE, USING "NEOCOLONIALIST AGENTS" OPERATING UNDER THE FLAG OF "SPLITTIST" MOVEMENTS. REPEATING THE CHARGE THAT ARMS BEING USED BY THESE GROUPS ORIGINATE IN VARIOUS WESTERN COUNTRIES, HE AGAIN PLAYS THE THEME THAT US AID TOTALS \$50 MILLION AND THAT US

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VETERANS ARE BEING RECRUITED FOR SERVICE AS "ADVISORS"

TO THE FNLA AND UNITA. CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM DIRECTED AT US INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA IS NOTED AS ARE STANDARD CHARGES AGAINST ALLEGED "MAOIST" ACTIVITIES THERE.

2. PRAVDA CONCLUDES THAT THE KEY QUESTION FOR THE FUTURE OF AFRICA IS WHETHER THERE WILL BE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN DECISIONS, FULL FREEDOM FROM THE CURSE OF COLONIALISM, OR WHETHER THIS PROCESS WILL BE DELAYED, THUS CAUSING FURTHER DEPRIVATION AND SUFFERING. IN THE FACE OF SUCH DANGER, ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES THEMSELVES ARE DEVOTING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM, AND THE UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OF THE OAU, IS NOTED IN THIS REGARD. SOVIET PUBLIC OPINION, "OBSERVER" STATES, IS CONVINCED THAT THE NEOCOLONIALISTS, RACISTS, AND THEIR SUPPORTERS INEVITABLY WILL BE DEFEATED, AND THE VICTORIOUS ANGOLAN PEOPLE WILL THEN BE ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE.

3. COMMENT - THE ARGUMENTATION AND TARGETS OF THIS ARTICLE HAVE BEEN SEEN BEFORE, BUT THE MENTION OF UN DECISIONS AND THE OAU MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA CARRIES THE ADMITTEDLY VAGUE IMPLICATION THAT MOSCOW PLACES MORE VALUE THAN HERETOFORE ON AFRICAN PARTICIPATION (OR AT LEAST ACQUIESCENCE) IN A NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION OF THE ANGOLAN CONFLICT. THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO INDICATION IN THIS ARTICLE OF ANY FLAGGING IN SOVIET SUPPORT FOR MOSCOW'S OWN CHOSEN CLIENTS -- QUITE THE CONTRARY.
STOESSEL

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